

Whitehall

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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22 AUG 1939

PENLLYN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1938

"Seren" Office, Bala. Tel. 29.

TO THE PENLLYN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,—

I beg to present my report for the year ended December 31st, 1938.

A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area—96,366 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1938—3,244.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to rate books—972.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£38/11/4.

Rateable value—£9,744.

Vital Statistics.

| | M. | F. | Total. |
|-------------------------------|----|----|--------|
| Live Births—Legitimate | 12 | 27 | 39 |
| Illegitimate | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | — |
| | | | 40 |
| | | | — |

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 12.4

| | M. | F. | Total. |
|------------------------------------|----|----|--------|
| Still Births—Legitimate | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Illegitimate | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rate per 1,000 total births | | | 24.4 |

| | M. | F. | Total. |
|--|----|----|--------|
| Deaths | 22 | 26 | 48 |
| Death rate per 1,000 estimated population | | | 14.79 |
| A.C.F. | | | .83 |
| Deaths from Puereral Causes (all forms) | | | 0 |

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

| | |
|--|-------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 50 |
| All infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 51.28 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 0 |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 11 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | 0 |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | 0 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | 0 |

Causes of death for the Area during the Year:—

| | M. | F. |
|---|----|----|
| Digestive Diseases | 1 | 1 |
| Acute and Chronic Nephrities | 1 | 0 |
| Congenital Debility. Premature Birth | 0 | 1 |
| Suicide | 1 | 0 |
| Other Violence | 2 | 0 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. | 0 | 2 |
| Heart Disease | 4 | 3 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | 3 | 3 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 0 | 2 |
| Influenza... .. | 1 | 1 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 2 | 3 |
| Cancer | 3 | 8 |
| Other defined Diseases | 4 | 1 |
| Liver Diseases | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 22 | 26 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Total Tuberculosis death rate | 1.54 |
| Total Phthisis death rate | 1.54 |
| Cancer death rate | 3.39 |
| Chronic Nephritis | .31 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage | .62 |
| Heart and Circulatory Diseases | 4.01 |
| Respiratory Diseases not T.B. | .62 |
| Influenza | .62 |

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers:—

M.O.H. (Part-time)—Robt. Jones, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector (Part-time)—Mr. E. T. Roberts,
Tyndderwen, Bala.

There were no changes in any of the following:—

- (a) Laboratory Facilities.
- (b) Nursing in the Home.
- (c) Hospital Facilities.
- (d) Ambulance Facilities.

The Ambulance that has served Bala and Penllyn for about 15 years has now serious defects, and should be replaced by a modern, more comfortable vehicle.

The various Clinics available for consultations are:—

- (a) Tuberculosis (King Edward VII. Welsh National Memorial.

- (b) Infant Welfare.
- (c) Orthopaedic (for children, the County Council Scheme; for older persons, the Merioneth Voluntary Orthopaedic Association).
- (d) Ante-Natal (County Scheme).

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Negotiations were proceeding throughout the year for the acquisition of rights to the wells at Cilgellan for the purpose of supplying the village of Llanuwchllyn.

The present supply from pumps is liable to pollution and must be considered dangerous. The largest village in the district should be in a position to enjoy the benefits of a wholesome piped supply.

Plans were also prepared for a piped supply to Cefnddwysarn, it should be possible to carry out this work in the near future.

Drainage, Sewerage and Pollution :

There are no changes to report in this connection.

Public Cleansing :

No changes in previous arrangements.

Shop and Offices :

No action was taken under the Shops Act, 1934, nor under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Camping Sites :

None registered in the district.

Smoke Abatement :

No action taken to abate nuisance from smoke, etc.

Swimming Baths and Pools :

There are no public or privately owned bathing places in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs :

No action was taken for this purpose.

Schools :

The sanitary condition of the schools remains the same apart from the provision of a piped supply to Llawrbetws School. The following schools were closed for the periods and reasons stated during the year :—

Llandderfel School—15 days in February, for Measles.

Celyn School—5 days in November, for Infectious Colds.

Parc School—5 days in January, for Measles.

Llangower School—10 days in November and December, for Measles.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area :

| | |
|--|-----|
| Total number of formal notices | 12 |
| Number complied with | 10 |
| Total number of informal notices issued | 16 |
| Number complied with | 12 |
| Total number of New Houses completed:— | |
| (a) by Local Sanitary Authority | 0 |
| (b) by private enterprise | 1 |
| Number of plans—new houses, buildings | 9 |
| Visits to Bakehouses | 2 |
| Number of notices re defects | 0 |
| Visits to Cowsheds | 50 |
| Number of visits re defects | 10 |
| Visits to Dairies and Milk Shops | 20 |
| Number of notices re defects | 4 |
| Visits to Slaughter Houses | 10 |
| Number of notices re defects | 4 |
| Notices re removal of ashes | 0 |
| Notice re removal of manure | 6 |
| Notices re defective drains | 4 |
| Number of visits to cases of infectious diseases | 26 |
| Number of houses disinfected | 14 |
| Notices of defective water fittings | 0 |
| Number of pail closets converted into W.C. | 0 |
| Number of new Water Closets erected | 1 |
| Total number of Water Closets | 134 |
| Total number of Pail Closets | 59 |
| Total number of Privies and other Closets | 423 |
| Total number of closets serving more than one house | 48 |
| Milk Samples taken for Ministry of Health:— | |
| for County Council | 39 |
| for Local Sanitary Authority | 0 |

D.—HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—30.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose—39.
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925—30.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose—39.

- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—4.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—16.

2—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—8.

3—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—10.
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—
 - (a) By owners—10.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—0.
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—12.
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners—12.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—0.
- (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—0.
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—0.
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made—0.
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit—0.

4—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year—16.
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein—17.
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein—80.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year—0.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year—2.
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases—14.
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding—0.

Progress in carrying out the proposed re-housing programme has been slow and difficult, and the position at the end of 1938 was as follows:—

Llandderfel.—Eight houses in course of construction.

Arenig.—The Ministry of Health have refused grants for the erection of 2 houses, although several houses have been condemned at this Village.

Sarnau.—Site chosen disapproved of by Inspector for the Ministry of Health. Other sites for 4 houses are being investigated.

Rhosygwaliau.—Negotiations for the purchase of the site for 4 houses were only recently completed. It should be possible to commence building operations soon.

Llanfor.—After several sites had been investigated, a suitable site in the gardens in the centre of the Village has been fixed upon.

Llanuwchllyn.—The Council has failed to come to terms for the acquisition of land for the erection of 4 houses.

Llawrbettws.—Here also failure attended the Council's efforts to secure land for building two houses.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Milk Supply:

There are 48 registered milk dealers in the district, one being licensed to sell certified milk from an attested herd.

The cowhouses and dairies were regularly inspected and reported upon by the Sanitary Inspector.

Thirty-nine samples were sent on behalf of the County Council for examination of Bacterial content.

Meat and Other Food:

Slaughter houses, meat shops and bakehouses were periodically inspected. No carcasses, or parts thereof, were condemned on account of tuberculosis or other pathological conditions.

The following figures give the approximate number of animals killed during the year:—

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Cattle (excluding cows) | 0 |
| Cows | 7 |
| Calves | 0 |
| Sheep and Lambs | 1080 |
| Pigs | 32 |

F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were no changes in Laboratory arrangements for facilitating the diagnosis of or treatment of infectious diseases.

The cases notified are summarised in the following Table:—

| Disease. | Total Cases Notified according to Age Groups. | | | | | | | Admitted to Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|-------------------------------------|--|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|--------------------------|------------------|
| | 1— | 2— | 3— | 4— | 5— | 10— | 15— | | |
| Scarlet Fever ... | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Notifiable Diseases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

All the cases were of mild severity. This tendency appears to be a characteristic of scarlet fever in latter years in the district.

Tuberculosis:

New cases and mortality during 1938:—

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | Non-Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0— | | | | | | | | |
| 1— | | | | | | | | |
| 5— | | | | | | | | |
| 15— | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | | |
| 25— | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | | |
| 35— | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | | |
| 45— | | | | | | | | |
| 55— | | | | | | | | |
| 65 upwards | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | | |
| Totals | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 |

There are no reasons to suspect neglect in the notification of Tuberculosis.

I wish to express my thanks to the County M.O.H., Clerk, Sanitary Inspector, and Members of the Council for their co-operation and assistance.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT JONES.